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LB 1033

administer whatever emergency services they were performing as the patient was being admitted to the hospital, but once admission had occurred, once the hospital personnel had taken charge of the patient, the emergency medical personnel were out of the picture and gone, and there were no circumstances under which they could employ their skills in a direct hospital setting. I think this is a healthy development that the persons involved, the people that are interested in those issues, came to the conclusion that that was a little too restrictive a rule; that there was a place for emergency medical personnel, technicians, paramedics, in a hospital setting as long as it was carefully controlled and defined. The idea in part was that it would be a substantial benefit in some of our rural communities where we have trouble finding people, first of all, that will receive training at the level of EMTI, emergency medical technician intermediate, or paramedics. Now those are very high levels of training. It is difficult to maintain competency unless you are constantly using the skills that you have been trained to use, and one of the ways in which we can keep people competent and one of the ways we can keep people available in our communities to serve at those very high levels is to allow them to work in, as I say, in hospitals within the scope of their skills and their practice. So that is what LB 1033 proposes to do. It proposes to remove that restriction that was imposed in the bill a couple of years ago that emergency medical personnel perform their service only in an out-of-hospital setting except for that...services that they delivered immediately upon admission, and allow EMTIs, those are emergency medical technicians intermediate, and emergency medical technicians paramedic to work in a hospital setting subject to their scope of practice, the skills that they have acquired and the other conditions that are in the bill. There will be committee amendments and then an amendment to the committee amendment that set out those requirements. I am pleased that Senator Erdman has designated LB 1033 as his priority bill for this session. I hope we can be successful in the passage of the bill. I think it is a good bill. And with that, I would yield the balance of my time to Senator Erdman, if he wishes to make any comments about the bill.

SPEAKER KRISTENSEN: Senator Erdman, you have about six minutes.